ATLAS

BIBLE TALES

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TALES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FEB.

10¢

Jerry Robinson

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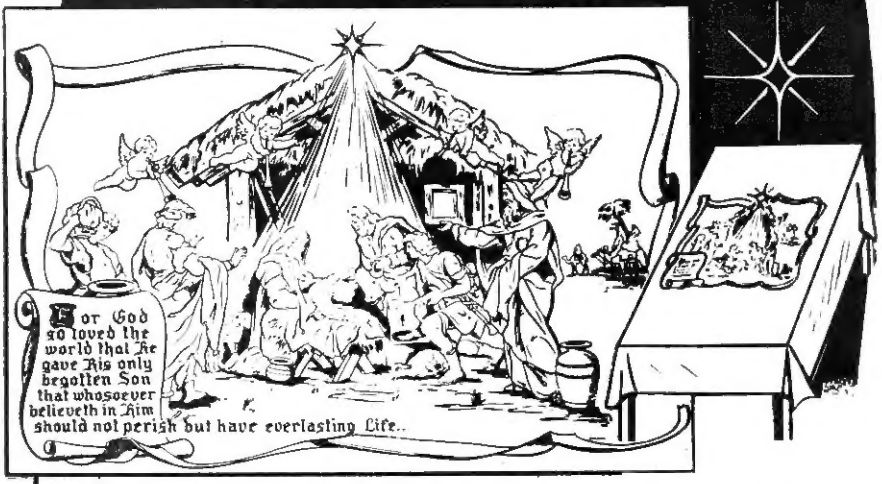
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The Fall of Jericho

JOSHUA 1-6

THE GOOD BOOK TELLS US THAT THE LORD WARNED MOSES THAT HE WAS NEVER TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND. NOW MOSES HAD LED HIS PEOPLE THROUGH MANY DANGERS SO THAT HE AND THEY COULD FIND PEACE AND PLENTY. BUT MOSES HAD GROWN OLD, AND NOW THE TIME HAD COME FOR HIM TO JOIN HIS FATHERS...

SO HE APPOINTED JOSHUA TO LEAD THE PEOPLE AFTER HE WAS GONE. THEN HE BLESSED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND BADE THEM FAREWELL...

AND JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES WEPT AS THEIR BELOVED LEADER AND PROPHET CLIMBED MOUNT NEBO, THE HIGH MOUNTAIN THAT OVERLOOKED THE PROMISED LAND.

THERE, WITH HIS EYES ON THE GLORIOUS PLACE FOR WHICH HE HAD SUFFERED SO MUCH, BUT WHICH HE WAS DESTINED NEVER TO ENTER, MOSES DIED.

ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL REINMAN

The people turned to Joshua, their new leader, crying, "Lead us to the promised land, O Joshua! Fulfill the word of the Lord!"

But there were those who were jealous of Joshua. "Moses was old and dying," they said. "He didn't know what he was doing when he named Joshua! Joshua does not know the word of the Lord!"

"Silence!" thundered Joshua. "The Lord gave the word to Moses and Moses gave it to me! I shall fulfill that word! I shall lead you to the promised land!"

His enemies laughed. "Behold!" they said, "beyond us are the furious waters of the river Jordan!"

"And beyond that is the mighty city of Jericho! Its walls are high and strong and built of huge stones! How shall we conquer that city, O Joshua?"

Its army is large and well armed! How shall our weak forces defeat it? How can we overcome the walls of Jericho?"

"We are the chosen people of God," replied Joshua. "He will give us the strength to do what we have to do! Have faith in the Lord!" But his enemies laughed.

JOSHUA SENT SPIES TO CROSS THE JORDAN. THEY SWAM THE WATERS UNDER COVER OF THE NIGHT.

IN JERICHO THERE LIVED A WOMAN NAMED RAHAB. SHE BELIEVED IN THE LORD AND IN HIS PEOPLE AND SHE HELPED THE SPIES.

THE SPIES LOOKED INTO THE CITY AND SAW THE GREAT ARMY TO DEFEND IT.

THAT SAME NIGHT THEY SWAM BACK TO THE SHORE AND TOLD JOSHUA WHAT THEY HAD SEEN. "A MASS OF SOLDIERS ARE THERE," THEY SAID. "YOU SEE?" SNEERED JOSHUA'S ENEMIES, "WE TOLD YOU THE LORD IS NOT WITH YOU!"

"HE IS!" CRIED JOSHUA. "ORDER THE ARK OF THE COVENANT BROUGHT FORWARD!" AND IT WAS DONE.

"TAKE THE ARK AND CROSS THE JORDAN!" JOSHUA ORDERED. "YOU ARE MAD!" CRIED HIS ENEMIES! "THE CARRIERS WILL DROWN AND THE ARK WILL BE LOST FOREVER IN THE WATERS!" "CROSS THE JORDAN!" ORDERED JOSHUA ONCE MORE. "THE LORD IS WITH US!"

AND THE LORD WAS WITH THEM! THE WATERS OF THE JORDAN PARTED! JOSHUA AND THE HOST FOLLOWED THE ARK INTO THE PROMISED LAND!

So they crossed the Jordan and at last the Israelites set foot upon the promised land.

Joshua ordered twelve large boulders to be set up as a memorial for what they had done and to honor the Lord God.

Then they ate their first passover meal in the promised land. "Thank you, O Lord!" cried Joshua. "Thank you for helping me to fulfill your word to the children of Israel."

"You rejoice too soon!" said his enemies. "How will you do battle against the walls of Jericho?" "The Lord will guide us," replied Joshua.

But, alone, Joshua was troubled as he planned the battle against Jericho. The odds were too great for his small army. "Help me, Lord!" he prayed!

Suddenly a glistening figure appeared before him. "I am the captain of the army of the Lord!" he said! "I shall tell you how to defeat the army of Jericho."

Joshua listened to the messenger of the Lord. Then he followed the orders and led his army around the walls of Jericho. "Blow the horns of the rams!" he commanded his seven priests who were carrying the holy ark.

His enemies laughed. "What sort of way is this to fight a battle?" they said. "Forget Joshua! We shall lead you to victory!"

ONCE EACH DAY FOR SEVEN DAYS, JOSHUA LED THE ISRAELITES AROUND THE WALLS OF JERICHO AS THE PRIESTS BLEW THEIR RAMS' HORNS...

"AND JOSHUA'S ENEMIES LAUGHED IN SCORN AND RIDICULE! "SO *THIS* IS THE PROPHET WHO IS TO SHOW US THE WAY OF THE LORD!" THEY CRIED! "JOSHUA IS A FALSE PROPHET AND HIS GOD IS A FALSE GOD!"

"BLOW, PRIESTS OF ISRAEL! BLOW!" CRIED JOSHUA! THEY ENDED THE SEVENTH DAY BY GOING AROUND THE WALLS SEVEN TIMES! THIS TIME THEY ENDED THEIR BLOWING WITH A GREAT BLAST..."*AND THE WALLS OF JERICHO CAME TUMBLING DOWN!*

DOWN CAME THEIR ENEMIES, AND THE HOSTS OF THE LORD, SHOUTING, "HOSANNA," RUSHED IN TO DEFEAT THEM!

AND THE ISRAELITES DESTROYED THE CITY THAT BLOCKED THEIR PATH TO THE PROMISED LAND!

"THANK YOU, LORD!" CRIED JOSHUA. "YOU HAVE PROVED THE STRENGTH OF YOUR WORD... AND THAT WE ARE THE CHOSEN PEOPLE!"

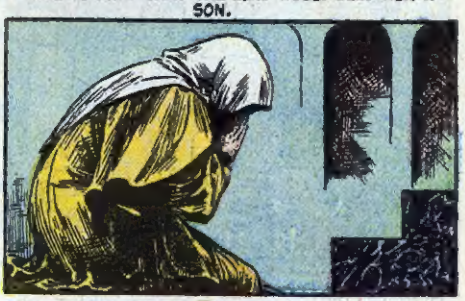
"AND IT PROVES THAT YOU ARE THE TRUE PROPHET OF THE TRUE GOD!" CRIED JOSHUA'S ENEMIES WHO WERE NOW NO LONGER HIS ENEMIES. NOW THERE WAS PEACE AMONG THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL!

Children of the Bible

The Story of Samuel

IT IS WRITTEN THAT DURING THE GREAT BATTLES BETWEEN THE PHILISTINES AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, ELI, THE PRIEST OF GOD, WAS WORSHIPING IN THE TEMPLE WHEN A WOMAN ENTERED.

IT WAS HANNAH, THE WIFE OF ELKANAH, WHO HAD COME TO PRAY THAT THE LORD WOULD SEND HER A SON.

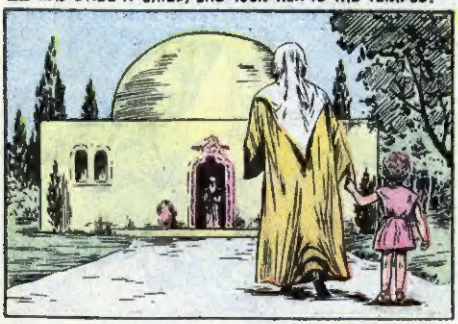


"IF I HAVE A SON," SHE SAID, "I PROMISE HIM TO GOD, TO SERVE THE LORD IN HIS TEMPLE." "SO BE IT," SAID ELI. "YOU HAVE PROMISED."

AND GOD ANSWERED HER PRAYERS AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A BOY WHOM SHE CALLED SAMUEL.

ILLUSTRATED BY MATT ANDERSON

HANNAH REMEMBERED HER PROMISE. WHILE SAMUEL WAS STILL A CHILD, SHE TOOK HIM TO THE TEMPLE.



"HERE IS MY SON," SHE SAID TO ELI. "I GIVE HIM TO GOD -- TO LOVE HIM AND TO SERVE HIM IN THE TEMPLE." "I SHALL TAKE HIM IN THE NAME OF THE LORD," SAID ELI.

SO SAMUEL SPENT HIS BOYHOOD CLOSE BESIDE THE PRIEST AND FOLLOWED HIM IN THE WAYS OF GOD.

AS SAMUEL SLEPT ONE NIGHT, HE HEARD A VOICE CALL OUT HIS NAME.

HE RAN TO THE PRIEST AND SAID, "HERE I AM." BUT ELI REPLIED, "I DID NOT CALL YOU!"

THREE TIMES SAMUEL HEARD HIS NAME CALLED, AND THREE TIMES HE THOUGHT IT WAS ELI WHO CALLED HIM. "THAT IS NOT MY VOICE," SAID ELI. "IT IS THE VOICE OF THE LORD GOD WHO WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU!" THE BOY LEFT AND THE VOICE CALLED OUT A FOURTH TIME! "SAMUEL!"

SAMUEL FELL ON HIS KNEES BEFORE THE GLORY OF GOD, CRYING, "SPEAK, LORD, FOR YOUR SERVANT HEARS YOU!"

"THERE WILL BE WARS," SAID GOD. "THE HOLY ARK SHALL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THE ISRAELITES AND THE SONS OF ELI SHALL FALL UPON EVIL WAYS, FOR THEY ARE EVIL! YOU SHALL BE MY VOICE, SAMUEL! YOU ARE MY PROPHET! WARN THE PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS AND TO WALK IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD JEHOVAH!"

AFTER THAT SAMUEL WENT TO THE SONS OF ELI AND TOLD THEM TO CHANGE THEIR EVIL WAYS, BUT THEY ONLY LAUGHED AT THE CHILD.

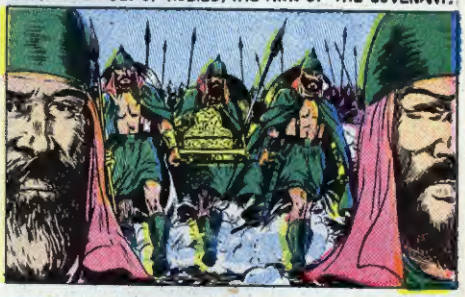
AND THE PEOPLE ALSO LAUGHED AT THE LITTLE BOY WHO TALKED LIKE A PROPHET. BUT THERE WERE SOME WHO DID NOT LAUGH. THEY WERE THOSE WHO BELIEVED.

ELI'S SONS KEPT ON IN THEIR EVIL WAYS AND PAID NO ATTENTION TO THE WARNINGS OF SAMUEL.

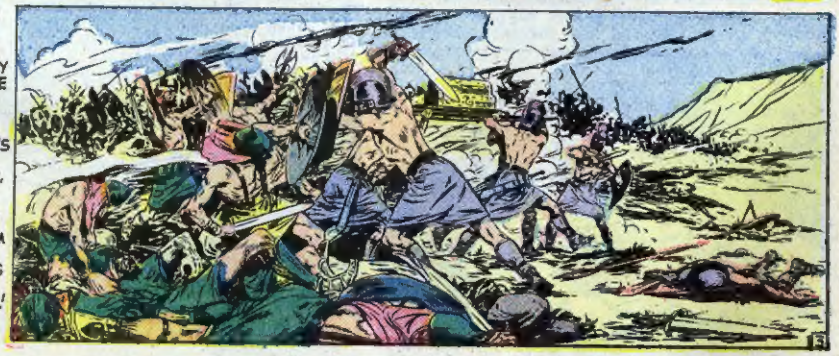
WHEN SAMUEL HAD GROWN UP, THE LORD CAME TO HIM AND SAID, "THE TIME HAS COME TO PUNISH THE SONS OF ELI. THEY AND THEIR FOLLOWERS ARE NOT WORTHY TO KEEP THE ARK OF THE COVENANT!"

"BEWARE!" WARNED SAMUEL! "THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD IS AT HAND!" BUT MANY OF THE ISRAELITES WHO HAD TAKEN TO WORSHIPING IDOLS DID NOT LISTEN.

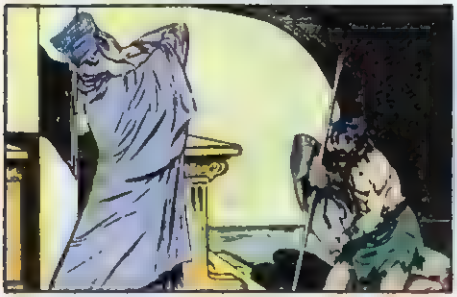
NOW THE ISRAELITES WENT TO BATTLE THEIR ENEMIES, THE PHILISTINES. TO INSURE VICTORY THEY TOOK WITH THEM THE HOLY OF HOLIES, THE ARK OF THE COVENANT!



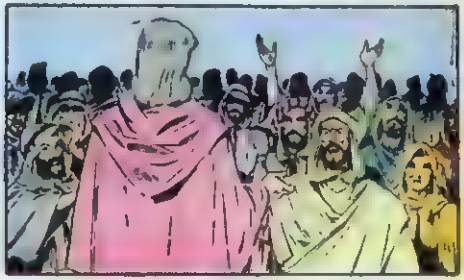
AND GOD WAS ANGRY WITH THOSE WHO WORSHIPED IDOLS! HE CAUSED ELI'S SONS TO BE KILLED, AND THE ARK WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM THE ISRAELITES BY THE PHILISTINES!



LOST WAS THE HOLY OF HOLIES.' GONE WERE THE SONS OF ELI.' ELI MOURNED AND TORE HIS GARMENTS AT THE TERRIBLE NEWS.'

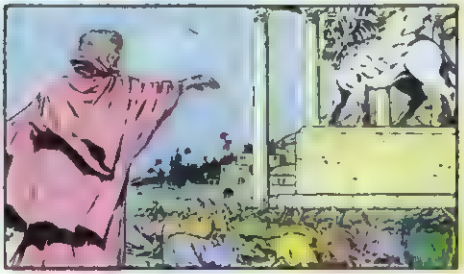


NOW THE PEOPLE FLOCKED TO THE PROPHET SAMUEL. THEY CRIED: "WHAT YOU WARNED HAS COME TO PASS.' HOW SHALL WE GET BACK OUR ARK FROM THE PHILISTINES? LEAD US IN BATTLE AGAINST THEM!"



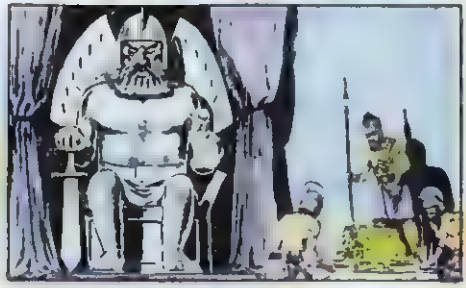
"NO," ANSWERED SAMUEL. "THAT IS NOT THE WAY. THE LORD WILL FIND A WAY!"

BUT THE PEOPLE GREW TIRED OF WAITING AND ONCE MORE THEY TURNED BACK TO THE FALSE IDOLS. "HAVE FAITH IN THE LORD," SAMUEL WARNED, BUT THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN.'



"SHOW THEM, O LORD.'" CRIED SAMUEL. "SHOW THEM THAT IT IS WORTH-WHILE TO HAVE FAITH IN YOU.'" THE DISBELIEVERS SHOUTED. "WHAT GOOD IS YOUR GOD NOW.? HIS ARK IS IN THE HANDS OF OUR ENEMIES.' WE SHALL FIND NEW GODS TO WORSHIP.'"

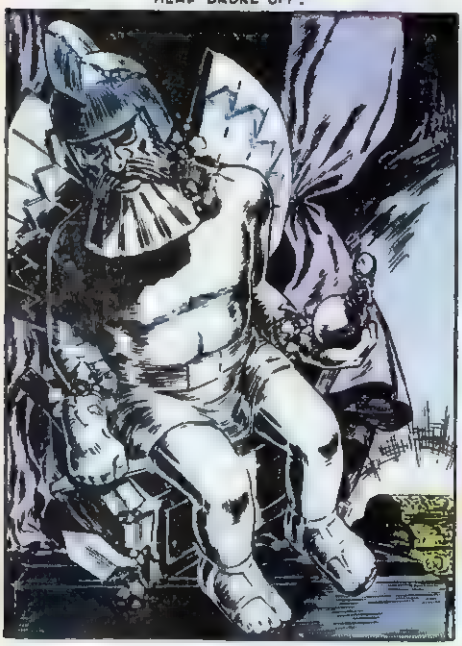
MEANWHILE, THE PHILISTINES HAD CARRIED THE ARK IN TRIUMPH TO THEIR CITY OF ASHDOD THEY PLACED IT IN THE TEMPLE OF THEIR GOD DAGON.



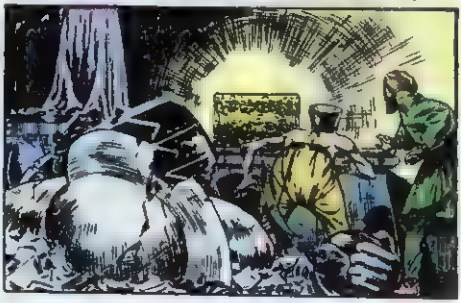
BUT DURING THE NIGHT, THE IMAGE OF DAGON FELL FACE FORWARD FROM ITS PEDESTAL.'

THE PHILISTINES SET THE IMAGE UP AGAIN. "AN ACCIDENT," THEY SAID "SEE--NO HARM HAS COME TO OUR GOD DAGON.'"

BUT, ONCE AGAIN DURING THE NIGHT THE STONE GOD FELL FORWARD--AND THIS TIME THE HANDS AND THE HEAD BROKE OFF!



WHEN THEY FOUND THIS, THE PHILISTINES WERE IN A PANIC OF FEAR. "RETURN THE ARK TO THE ISRAELITES," THEY CRIED, "TAKE IT BACK BEFORE IT DESTROYS US ALL!"



SO THE ISRAELITES SAW THE IMPOSSIBLE...THEIR ARK WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THEM BY THEIR ENEMIES!

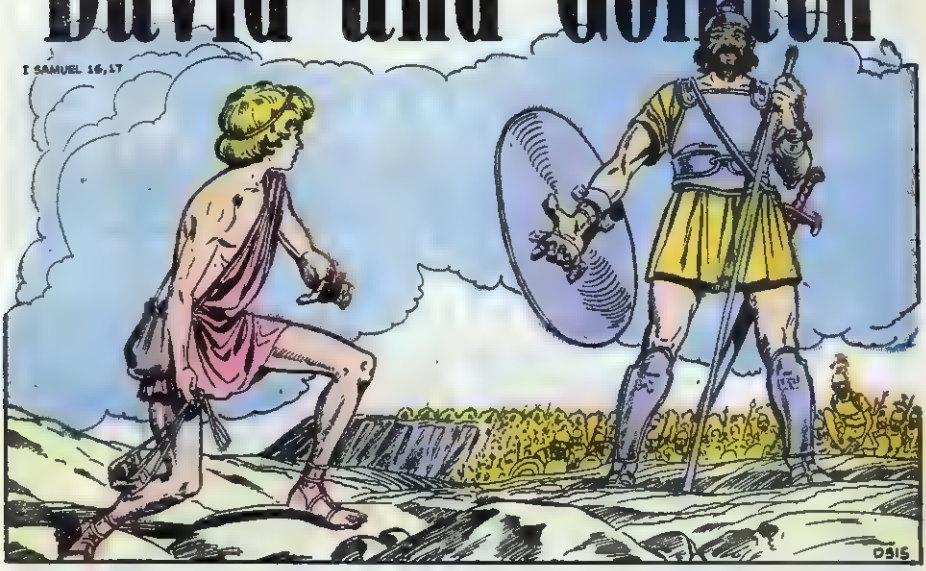
AT LAST THE ISRAELITES HAD THEIR HOLY OF HOLIES BACK WHERE IT BELONGED. "THANK YOU, O LORD!" CRIED SAMUEL.

NOW THE ISRAELITES SAW THAT SAMUEL HAD BEEN RIGHT AND THEY CONFESSED THEIR EVIL WAYS TO HIM.

"WE SHALL FOLLOW YOU!" THEY CRIED. "YOURS IS THE WAY OF THE LORD GOD JEHOVAH!"

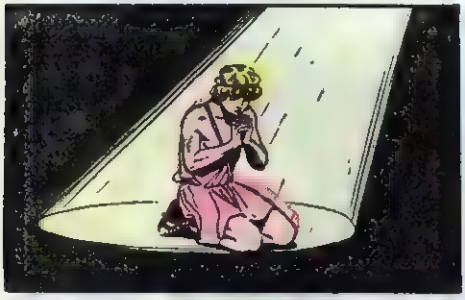
AND THEY GAVE UP THEIR FALSE GODS AND IDOLS AND LISTENED TO THE WORDS OF SAMUEL, THE PROPHET OF THE TRUE GOD.

David and Goliath



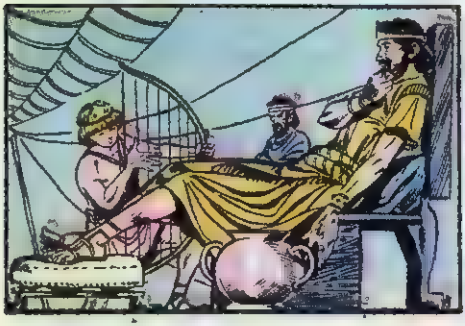
YOUNG DAVID WAS THE ANOINTED OF THE LORD AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS ON HIM.

SAUL, THE KING OF ISRAEL, HAD DISOBEYED GOD AND HE WAS SEIZED WITH FITS OF MADNESS.



THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD CALM SAUL WAS DAVID WHO PLAYED UPON HIS HARP.

BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE JEALOUS OF THE YOUNG FAVORITE OF THE KING, AND THEY LOOKED FOR A WAY TO DESTROY HIM.



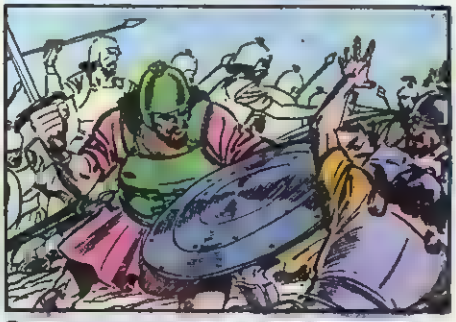
ILLUSTRATED BY SYD SHORES

AT THIS TIME, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE AT WAR WITH THEIR ANCIENT ENEMIES, THE PHILISTINES.

"WE LOSE MANY LIVES IN THIS WAR, O KING," SAID HIS AIDES TO SAUL. "AND THERE IS NEITHER VICTORY NOR DEFEAT. IT WILL GO ON FOR YEARS UNTIL THERE IS NO PHILISTINE AND NO ISRAELITE TO DO BATTLE. SHOW US THE WAY. WHAT SHALL WE DO?"

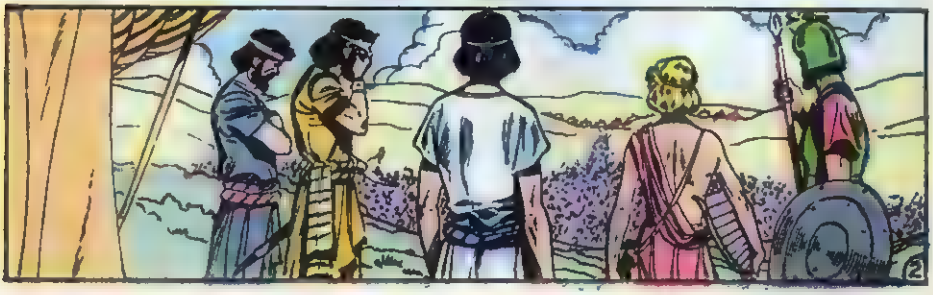
THE BATTLE RAGED ON, FIRST ONE WAY IN FAVOR OF THE PHILISTINES...

...THEN IN FAVOR OF THE ISRAELITES.

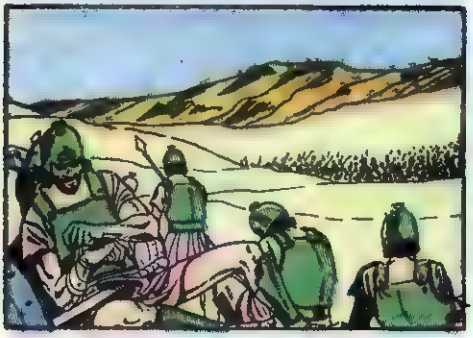


BUT SAUL HAD NO ANSWER. THERE WAS NO HELP FROM THE LORD, FOR THE LORD HAD REJECTED THE KING OF ISRAEL.

FROM HIS TENT, SAUL LOOKED OUT UPON THE SCENE OF BATTLE AND WEPT. THIS WAS ALL HIS FAULT, FOR HE HAD BECOME PROUD AND THOUGHT HE COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT GOD. "WHERE IS THERE ONE TO HELP ME IN ALL MY KINGDOM?" HE CRIED. BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER, SAVE THE SCREAMS OF THE DYING OF ISRAEL.

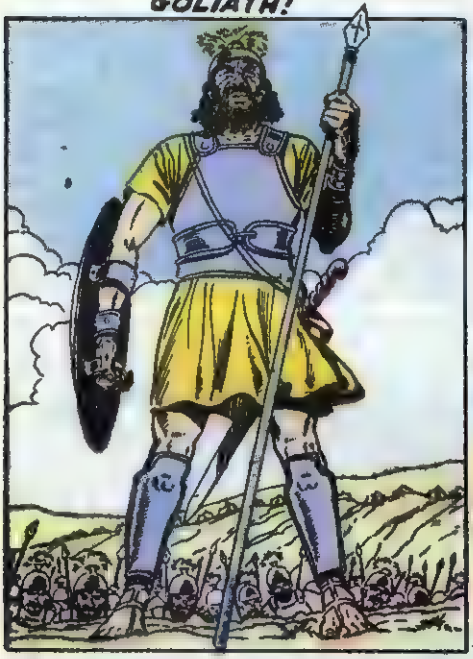


NOW BOTH SIDES WERE TIRED AND STOPPED TO REST.



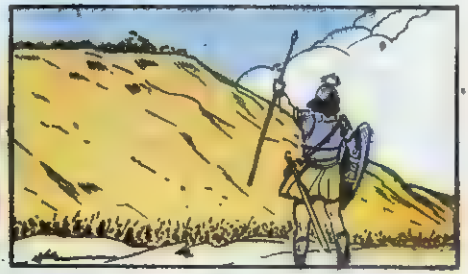
SUDDENLY, THE ISRAELITES SAW A MOVEMENT AMONG THE PHILISTINES. "WHAT DO THEY PLAN?" THEY ASKED ONE ANOTHER IN FEAR.

OUT OF THE RANKS OF THE ENEMY STEPPED... **GOLIATH!**

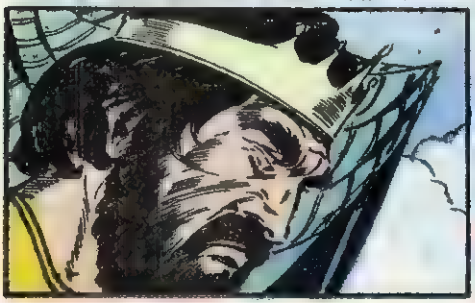


HE WAS A GIANT, THE BIGGEST AND STRONGEST OF ALL MEN, THE LEADER OF THE PHILISTINES IN BATTLE. HE ALONE HAD KILLED THOUSANDS OF ISRAELITES. NOW HE STEPPED FORWARD TO FACE THE STUNNED ISRAELITES. "LISTEN TO ME, O KING OF JUDEA." CRIED GOLIATH.

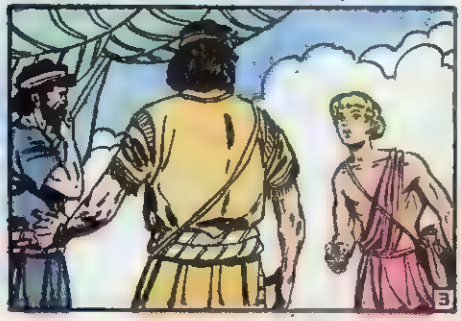
"THE BATTLE IS ENDLESS. I AM THE CHAMPION OF MY PEOPLE. SEND YOUR CHAMPION OUT TO FIGHT ME AND THE BATTLE SHALL BE DECIDED IN THAT WAY. WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER, O SAUL?"



SAUL HEARD AND LOOKED OVER HIS HOST. THE MEN WERE TIRED UNTO DEATH. NOT IN ALL THEIR RANKS COULD HE FIND A CHAMPION TO FACE GOLIATH.



IT WAS THEN THAT YOUNG DAVID STEPPED UP TO THE KING. "I SHALL FIGHT THIS GIANT," HE SAID.



"NO, DAVID," CRIED THE KING. "YOU ARE ONLY A LAD, GOLIATH IS A GIANT AND A WARRIOR. THERE IS NO CHANCE FOR YOU TO DEFEAT HIM." DAVID ANSWERED, "I CAN DO IT."

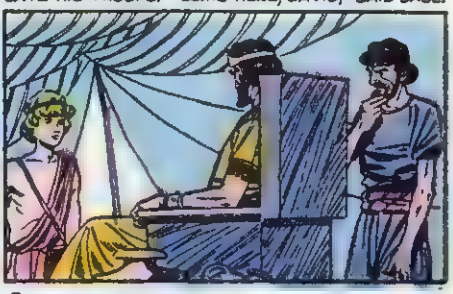
"NO," THE KING WENT ON, "YOU ARE MY FAVORITE. ONLY YOU BRING ME PEACE AND MAKE ME FORGET THE ANGER OF THE LORD WHO HAS FORSAKEN ME. WITHOUT YOU I WOULD DIE."

NOW JORAH, WHO HATED DAVID, HEARD ALL THIS. IT WAS THE CHANCE HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR. "LET THE BOY TRY," HE SAID.

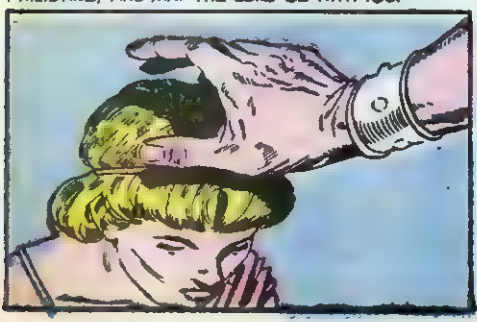
"IT IS TRUE HE IS ONLY A LAD, BUT BEHOLD, HE IS STRONG. IT IS SAID THAT HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF MANY MEN."

"IT IS ALSO SAID," CONTINUED JORAH, "THAT HE KILLED A LION AND A BEAR WHICH ATTACKED HIS FATHER'S SHEEP. LET HIM GO MEET THE GIANT OF THE ENEMY."

JORAH STEPPED BACK IN SATISFACTION. HE KNEW THAT SAUL WAS WEAK AND WOULD GRAB AT ANY CHANCE TO SAVE HIS TROOPS. "COME HERE, DAVID," SAID SAUL.

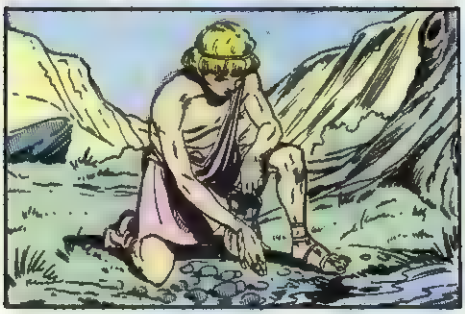


"I GIVE YOU MY BLESSING. GO FORTH AND BATTLE THE PHILISTINE, AND MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU."



JORAH SMILED TO HIMSELF. DAVID DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE. GOLIATH WOULD DESTROY HIM LIKE A MERE TWIG. SOON HIS ENEMY WOULD BE NO MORE. JORAH DIDN'T CARE IF IT MEANT THE DEFEAT OF ISRAEL, AS LONG AS *HE* COULD BE SAUL'S FAVORITE IN DAVID'S PLACE.

DAVID WENT TO A BROOK AND PICKED OUT FIVE SMOOTH STONES. HE PUT THEM INTO A BAG THAT HE CARRIED.

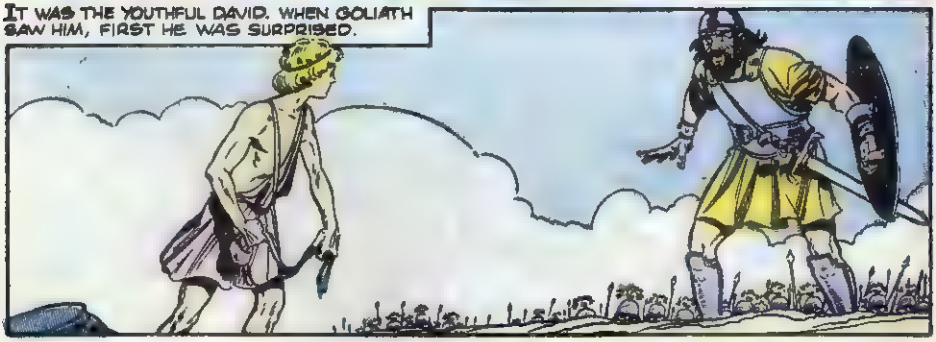


THEN HE TOOK HIS SLING AND WENT FORTH TO MEET GOLIATH.

WHEN JORAH SAW HIM, HE SAID, "IS THAT ALL YOU ARE USING TO FIGHT THE GIANT?" BUT DAVID REPLIED, "THE LORD IS WITH ME."

THEN GOLIATH'S COMPANION SHOUTED TO THE WAITING GIANT. "BEHOLD, AN ISRAELITE COMES TO FACE YOU!"

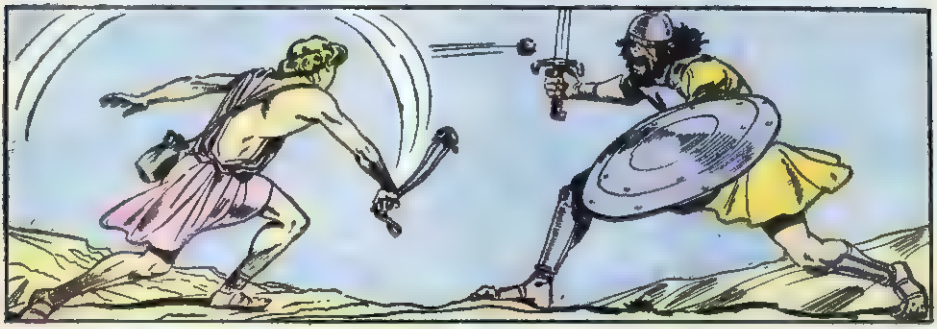
IT WAS THE YOUTHFUL DAVID. WHEN GOLIATH SAW HIM, FIRST HE WAS SURPRISED.



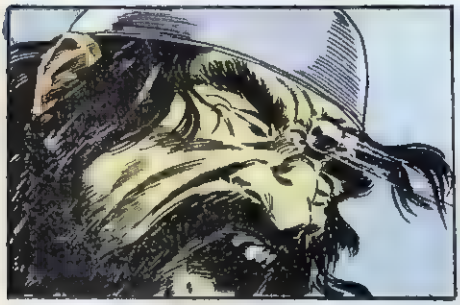
THEN HE LAUGHED IN SCORN. "IS *THIS* YOUR CHAMPION, O SAUL?" HE SNEERED. "IS THIS STRIPLING THE BEST YOU HAVE IN ALL YOUR HOSTS TO FACE ME?"

AND THEN HE WAS ANGRY. "TO DARE TO SEND A BOY TO FACE ME," HE CRIED, "I WILL DESTROY HIM IN AN INSTANT AND A THOUSAND MORE LIKE HIM. THIS IS YOUR LAST BREATH, BOY." AND GOLIATH DREW HIS SWORD.

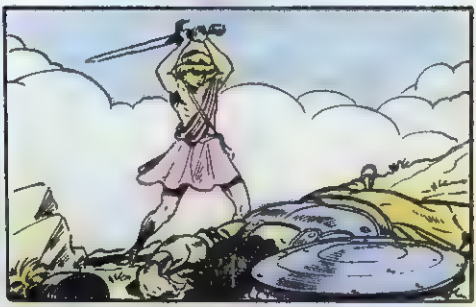
BUT DAVID SLUNG A STONE STRAIGHT AT THE FOREHEAD OF THE CHARGING GIANT.



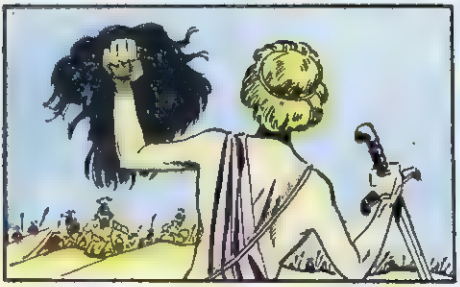
AND THE STONE SANK INTO GOLIATH'S FOREHEAD AND HE FELL TO THE EARTH.



THEN DAVID PICKED UP GOLIATH'S SWORD AND BEHEADED THE GIANT.



"BEHOLD," CRIED DAVID. "THIS IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE ENEMIES OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE OF THE LORD."



AND THE PHILISTINES WERE AFRAID AND RAN FROM THE SCENE.

DAVID RETURNED TO SAUL A GREATER FAVORITE THAN EVER. DAVID HAD DESTROYED NOT ONLY GOLIATH, BUT HIS OWN ENEMIES AS WELL.

BUT DAVID KNEW THAT ONLY THE LORD JEHOVAH HAD HELPED HIM, AND HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND THANKED GOD.

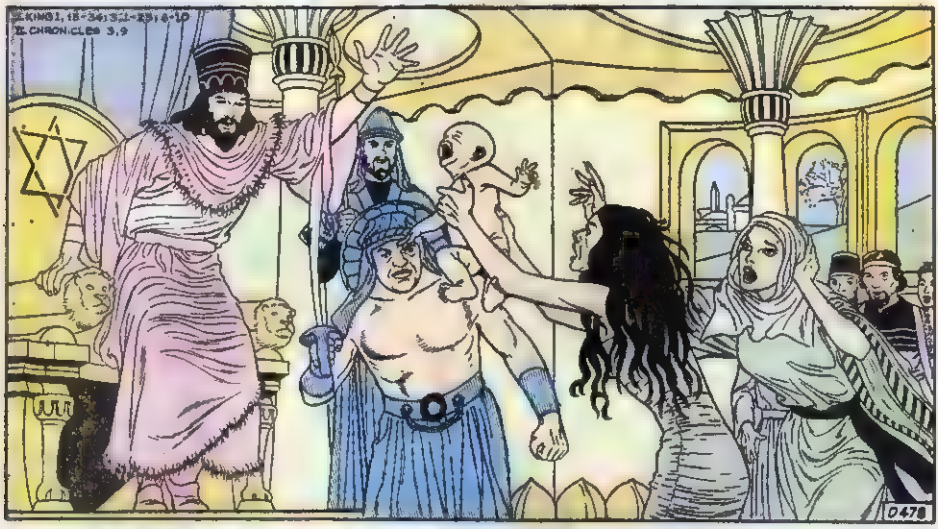
WHEN MARY WAS TOLD BY THE ANGEL GABRIEL THAT SHE HAD BEEN CHOSEN TO BECOME THE MOTHER OF THE SAVIOR, SHE SANG THE WORDS OF...

The Magnificat

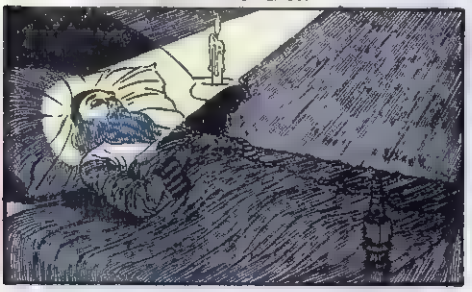
MY SOUL DOTH MAGNIFY THE LORD, AND MY SPIRIT HATH REJOICED IN GOD MY SAVIOR.
FOR HE HATH REGARDED THE LOWLINESS OF HIS HANDMAIDEN: FOR BEHOLD, FROM HENCEFORTH ALL GENERATIONS SHALL CALL ME BLESSED.
FOR HE THAT IS MIGHTY HATH MAGNIFIED ME AND HOLY IS HIS NAME.
AND HIS MERCY IS ON THEM THAT FEAR HIM THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS.
HE HATH SHOWN STRENGTH WITH HIS ARM; HE HATH SCATTERED THE PROUD IN THE IMAGINATION OF THEIR HEARTS.
HE HATH PUT DOWN THE MIGHTY FROM THEIR SEATS, AND EXALTED THE HUMBLE AND MEEK.
HE HATH FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; AND THE RICH HE HATH SENT EMPTY AWAY.
HE, REMEMBERING HIS MERCY, HATH HELPED HIS SERVANT ISRAEL, AS HE PROMISED TO HIS FOREFATHERS, TO ABRAHAM AND TO HIS SEED FOR EVER.

LUKE 1, 26-38
LUKE 2, 1-7
MATTHEW 1, 18-25

The Wisdom of Solomon



WHEN DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL, HAD GROWN OLD, HE KNEW THE TIME HAD COME TO APPOINT SOMEONE TO RULE IN HIS PLACE.



DAVID HAD TWO SONS. ONE, ADONIJAH, WAS AMBITIOUS AND UNWORTHY OF THE THRONE. THE OTHER WAS SOLOMON THE WISE. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WAS UPON SOLOMON.

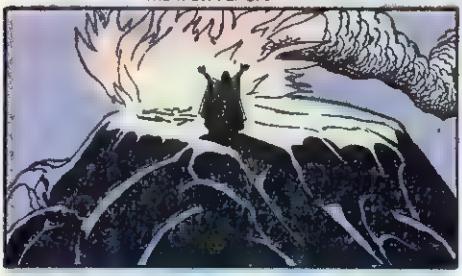
SO DAVID CHOSE SOLOMON TO BE KING AND SAID TO HIM, "I GO THE WAY OF ALL EARTH, THEREFORE YOU MUST BE STRONG AND BE A MAN, WALK IN THE WAYS OF GOD, MY SON, AND RULE WITH WISDOM AND KINDNESS."

AND THEN DAVID, THE CHOSEN ONE OF THE LORD, DIED IN PEACE, KNOWING HIS SON WOULD MAKE A GOOD AND GREAT KING OF ISRAEL.

ILLUSTRATED BY SID GREENE

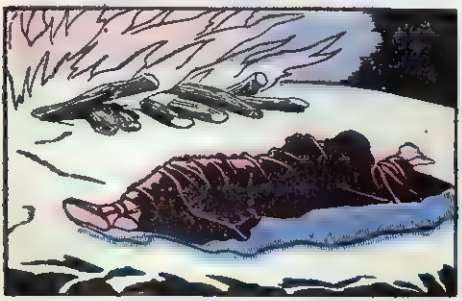
ALL THE PEOPLE HAD GREAT FAITH IN HIM. BUT SOLOMON WAS NOT SURE THAT HE WOULD MAKE A GOOD RULER. HE WENT TO GIBEON TO OFFER SACRIFICES TO THE LORD ON THE HIGH PLACES.

IN THOSE DAYS THERE WERE NO TEMPLES BUILT FOR GOD. SO THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED ON THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS. THIS MADE THEM FEEL CLOSE TO GOD. AND SOLOMON LOVED AND PRAYED TO HIM FOR HELP.



HE FELL ASLEEP, TROUBLED AND WORRIED, BESIDE THE FIRES OF HIS SACRIFICE.

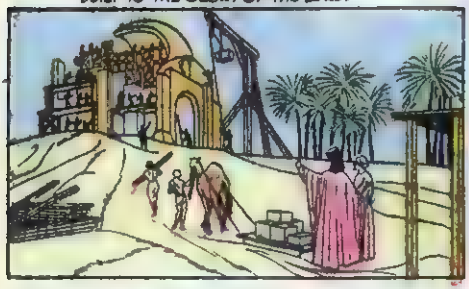
AND, LO, THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM AND SAID, "ASK WHATEVER YOU WANT OF ME!"



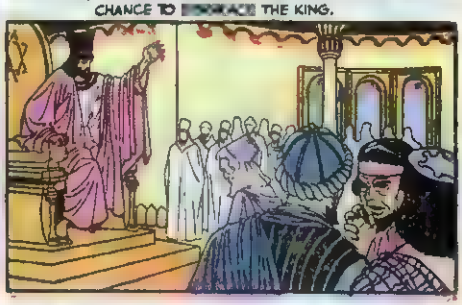
SOLOMON SAID, "O LORD, MY GOD, YOU HAVE MADE ME YOUR SERVANT KING, BUT I AM BUT A CHILD. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO. GIVE ME AN UNDERSTANDING HEART TO JUDGE MY PEOPLE, SO I MAY KNOW WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS BAD."

AND GOD SAID, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE ASKED FOR NOTHING FOR YOURSELF, NOT RICHES OR THE LIVES OF YOUR ENEMIES, I SHALL GIVE YOU A WISE HEART. BUT I SHALL ALSO GIVE YOU RICHES AND HONOR SO THAT THERE SHALL BE NO KING GREATER THAN YOU. AND IF YOU WALK IN MY WAYS, YOUR DAYS SHALL BE LONG."

WHEN HE AWOKE FROM HIS DREAM, SOLOMON WAS HAPPY THAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN TO HIM. HE WENT TO JERUSALEM AND THERE HE ORDERED A GREAT TEMPLE BUILT TO THE GLORY OF THE LORD.



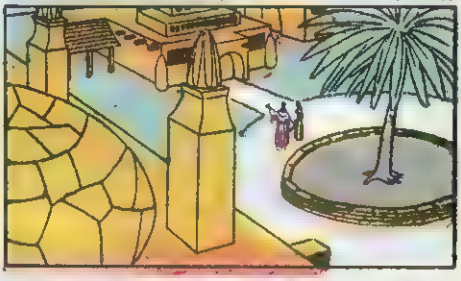
HE RULED IN WISDOM AND KINDNESS, DEALING JUSTICE AND MERCY. BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE ON THE SIDE OF HIS BROTHER ADONIJAH, THEY WAITED FOR THEIR CHANCE TO [illegible] THE KING.



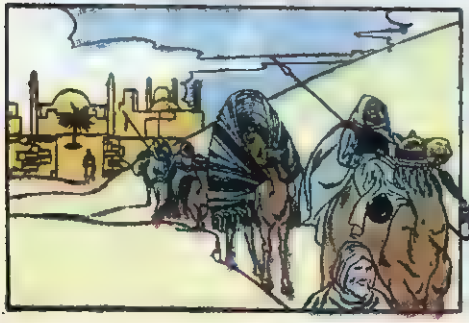
THE QUEEN OF SHEBA CAME IN ALL HER SPLENDOR AND GLORY TO VISIT THE KING AND TO SEE FOR HERSELF IF HIS WISDOM WAS AS GREAT AS SHE HAD HEARD.

BUT SOLOMON'S WISDOM WAS EVEN GREATER THAN SHE HAD HEARD.

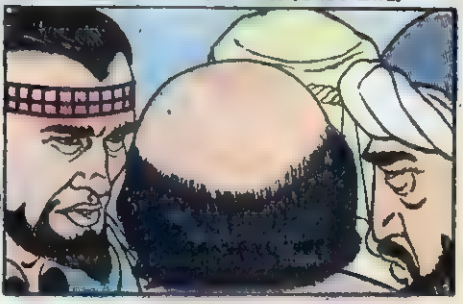
AND HIS WEALTH AND RICHES WERE ALSO THE GREATEST IN ALL THE WORLD. "THERE IS NO KING SO WISE AND WEALTHY AS YOU IN ALL THE WORLD," SHEBA SAID TO SOLOMON. "MY WEALTH IS AS NOTHING BESIDE THAT OF A MAN OF GOD."



THEN SHE LEFT AFTER GIVING HIM GIFTS OF GOLD, JEWELS AND SPICES.



"WE MUST DO SOMETHING," SAID THOSE WHO HATED SOLOMON, "EVERY DAY HE GROWS GREATER IN THE SIGHT OF THE WORLD. SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE."



THEIR CHANCE CAME SOON. THEY HEARD OF TWO WOMEN WHO WERE FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER OVER A CHILD.

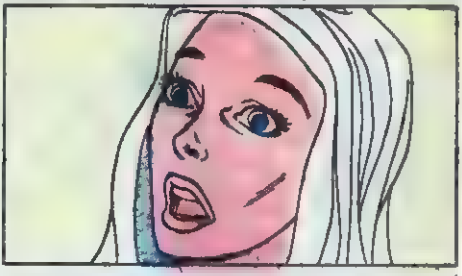
WHEN THEY LEARNED WHAT THE FIGHT WAS ABOUT, THEY SAID TO THE WOMEN, "GO BEFORE SOLOMON. HE IS GREAT AND WISE. HE SHALL JUDGE THIS MATTER."

WHEN THE WOMEN HAD GONE, THEY LAUGHED. "SURELY," THEY SAID, "THIS IS ONE MATTER THAT EVEN SOLOMON, IN ALL HIS WISDOM, CANNOT HANDLE."

THEY SHOUTED TO THE PEOPLE: "RUSH TO THE PALACE OF SOLOMON! NOW YOU SHALL SEE IF YOUR KING IS REALLY WORTHY OF SITTING IN THE THRONE OF DAVID!"

THE CROWDS RUSHED TO THE PALACE AND SAW THE TWO WOMEN BEFORE SOLOMON. A SOLDIER HELD THE BABY. SOLOMON SPOKE: "WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?"

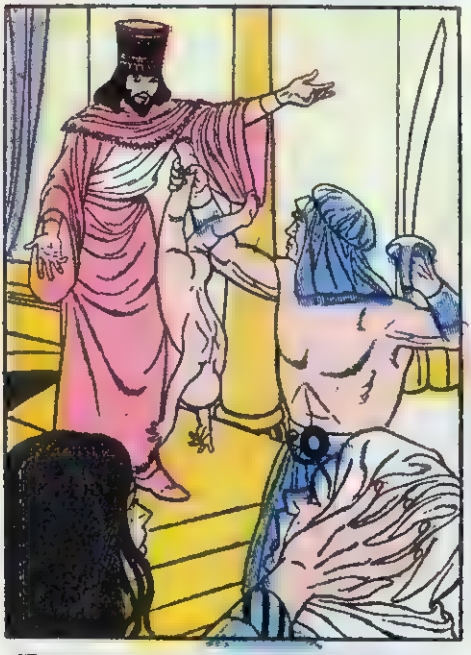
"O MY LORD," SAID THE FIRST WOMAN, "THIS WOMAN AND I LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE AND WE BOTH GAVE BIRTH TO BABES. DURING THE NIGHT HER BABE DIED AND SHE TOOK MINE. THE LIVING BABE IS *MY* SON, NOT HERS."



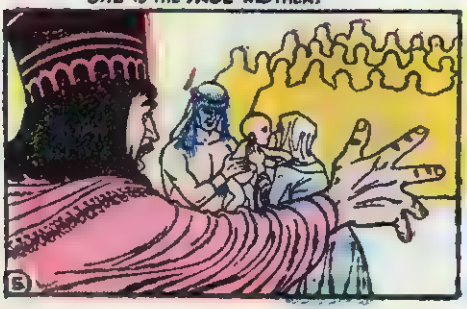
"NO," SAID THE OTHER WOMAN. "THE DEAD IS *HER* SON, AND THE LIVING IS *MY* SON."

"HOW SHALL YOU DEAL WITH THIS?" JEERED THE FOLLOWERS OF ADONIJAH, AS THE PEOPLE WAITED.

"DIVIDE THE LIVING CHILD IN TWO," HE SAID. "GIVE HALF TO THE ONE AND HALF TO THE OTHER."

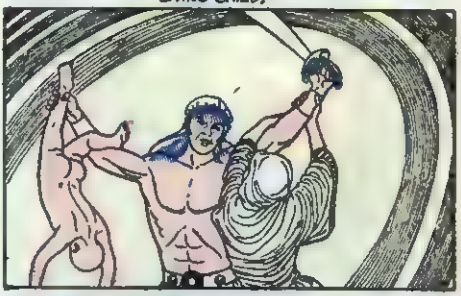


THEN SOLOMON DELIVERED HIS JUDGMENT. "GIVE THE CHILD TO THE FIRST WOMAN," HE SAID, "DO NOT KILL IT. *SHE* IS THE ***TRUE*** MOTHER."



AND SOLOMON SAID, "BRING ME A SWORD." AND A GUARD HELD OUT A GREAT BLADE. "NOW TAKE THE CHILD," SAID THE KING.

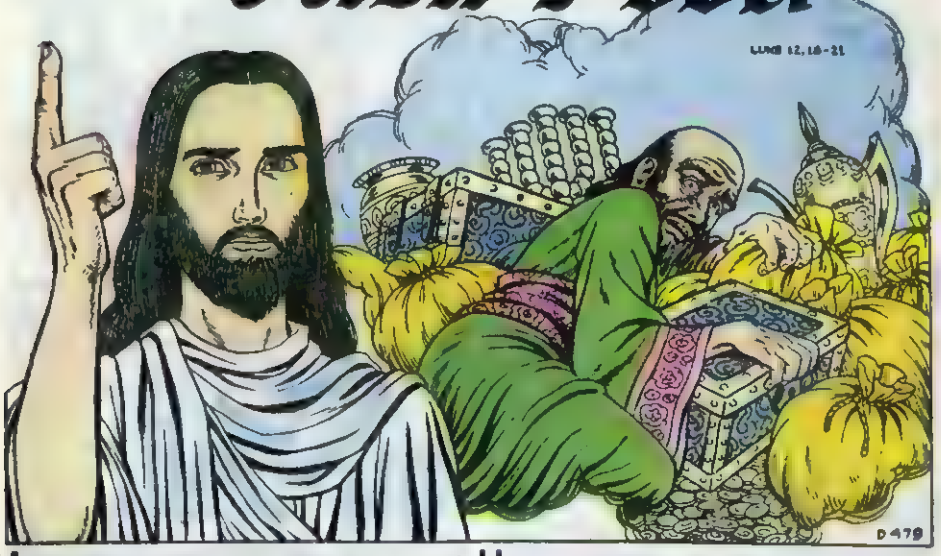
BUT THE FIRST WOMAN THREW HERSELF ON THE GUARD. "NO!" SHE CRIED. "DO NOT KILL IT! GIVE ***HER*** THE LIVING CHILD!"



"AND WHAT SAY YOU?" SOLOMON ASKED OF THE SECOND WOMAN. SHE REPLIED, "LET IT BE NOT MINE OR HERS. DIVIDE IT AS YOU SAY, O WISE SOLOMON."

AND SO SOLOMON'S ENEMIES WERE BEATEN AND HIS WISDOM SERVED THE WAY OF THE LORD.

The Rich Fool!

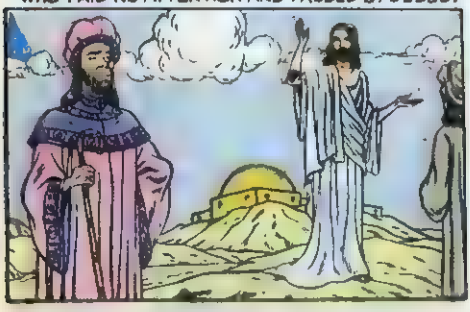


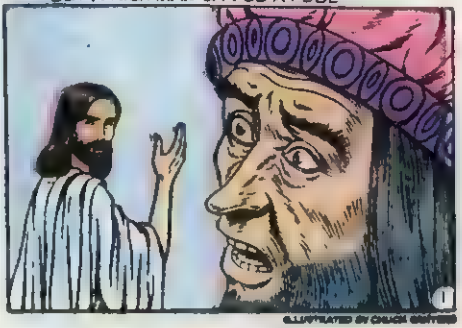
MANY PARABLES WERE TOLD BY JESUS TO SHOW THE MEANING OF LIFE. THE PEOPLE LISTENED TO THE WORDS OF THE NAZARENE.

HE TOLD THEM OF HOW THEY SHOULD ACT TOWARD EACH OTHER, OF HOW THEY SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

THE POOR LISTENED TO HIM, FOR HE BROUGHT THEM LIGHT AND HOPE... BUT THERE WAS A RICH MAN WHO PAID NO ATTENTION AND PASSED BY JESUS.

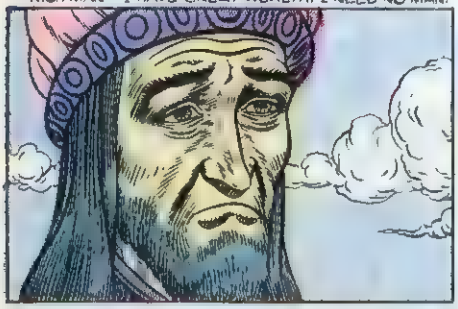
AND JESUS SAID: "THE POOR ARE BLESSED IN SPIRIT... BUT A RICH MAN CAN BE A FOOL!"





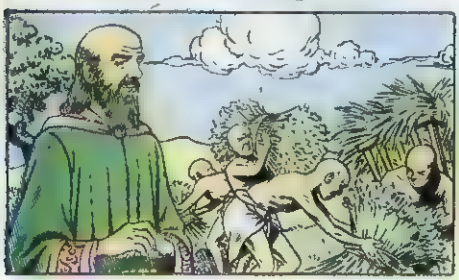
ILLUSTRATED BY CHUCK GIFFORD

"Why should I listen to you, Jesus?" asked the rich man. "I have great wealth. I need no man."

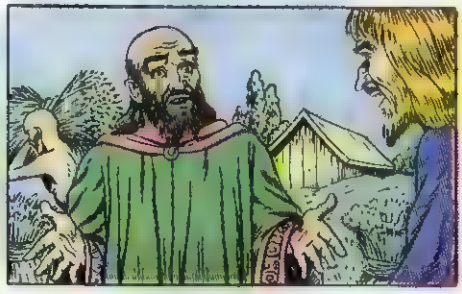


"You need God," replied Jesus. "A man's life does not consist of how much wealth he has." "Then what does it consist of?" asked the rich man. "I shall tell you," answered Jesus.

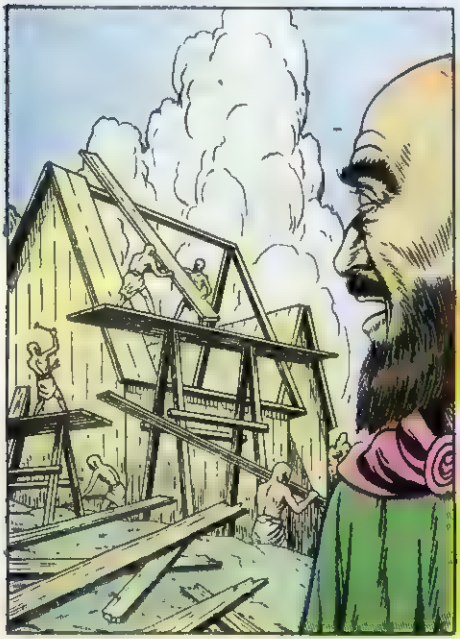
"Once there was a certain rich man who owned great fields and plantations. This land brought great harvest and he had no room in which to store it."



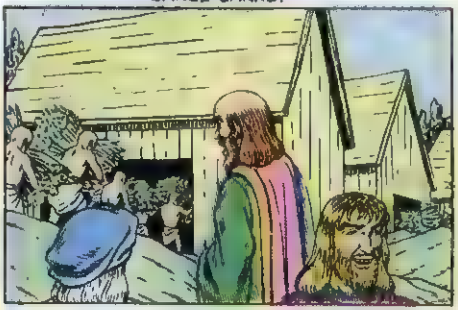
"And he said: 'What shall I do? I have too much wealth to know what to do with, and no place to put it!'"



"So this rich man ordered his barns to be pulled down and larger barns built in their places."

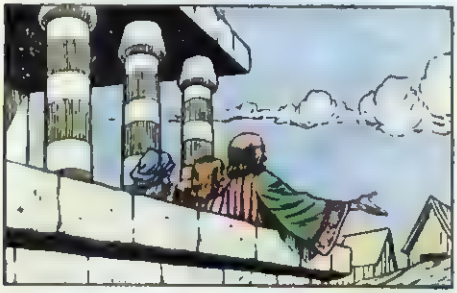


"Then his great wealth was stored into the large barns."



"Behold!" said the rich man, 'I have more than anyone could want. Could any man need more in all of life?'"

"I HAVE GOODS LAID UP THAT WILL LAST ME MANY YEARS,' HE SAID 'SO NOW I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.'"

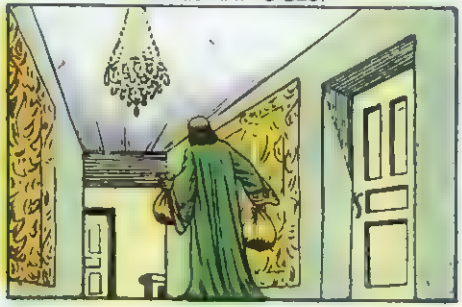


"I SHALL TAKE IT EASY,' HE WENT ON. 'I SHALL EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY. BRING ON THE FOOD AND WINE! BRING HAPPY COMPANY FOR MY TABLE!'"

"AND HIS SERVANTS DID AS HE ORDERED. HIS TABLE GROANED WITH FOOD AND WINE. COMPANY CAME TO JOIN HIM IN HIS CELEBRATION OF HIS GREAT FORTUNE."

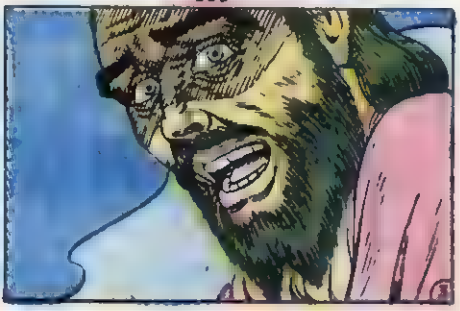
"BUT THE FESTIVAL ENDED, AND HIS GUESTS FINALLY DEPARTED."

"THEN THE RICH MAN, HEAVY WITH FOOD AND WINE, MADE HIS WAY TO BED."



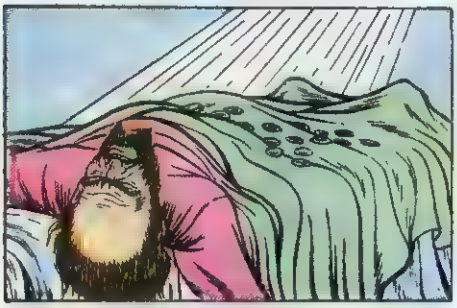
"BUT EVEN THEN HE WAS NOT SATISFIED. HE COUNTED HIS GOLD AND REJOICED THAT HE HAD SO MUCH."

"BUT SUDDENLY A DARK SHADOW FELL ACROSS HIS BED!"



"A GREAT FEAR GRIPPED HIS SOUL. 'WHO IS THERE?' HE CRIED, AND A VOICE ANSWERED, 'I AM THE ANGEL OF DEATH!'"

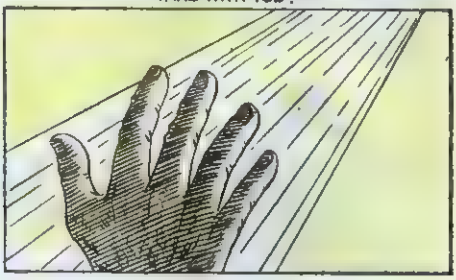
"AND THE ANGEL OF DEATH STRUCK DOWN THE RICH FOOL!"



"SAVE ME, LORD!" CRIED THE RICH MAN. "TEACH ME HOW NOT TO BE A FOOL!" JESUS SAID, SELL WHAT YOU HAVE AND GIVE IT TO THE POOR!"

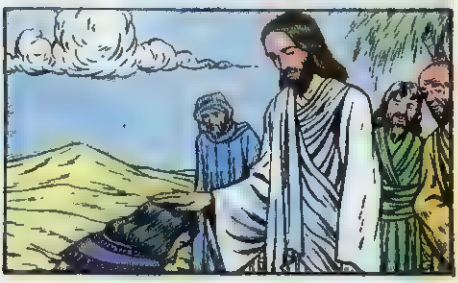
"THE RICH MAN WAS SPEECHLESS WITH FEAR. THEN ANOTHER VOICE SPOKE, AND IT WAS THE VOICE OF GOD. 'YOU FOOL!' SAID THE LORD!"

"THIS NIGHT YOUR SOUL WILL BE TAKEN FROM YOU,' SAID THE LORD. 'THEN WHAT SHALL YOU HAVE LEFT? WHICH OF YOUR GREAT WEALTH SHALL YOU TAKE WITH YOU?'"



"SO I SAY TO YOU," JESUS WENT ON, "THIS IS HOW YOU ARE WHEN YOU SAVE GREAT WEALTH FOR YOURSELF... BUT ARE POOR IN THE WAYS OF GOD!"

"GLADLY," SAID THE RICH MAN, "WHAT ELSE?" "FOLLOW ME," SAID JESUS. AND THE RICH MAN BECAME A FOLLOWER OF THE NAZARENE.



The Good Samaritan

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN JESUS WAS TALKING TO HIS FOLLOWERS ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE

ELI, A LAWYER WHO KNEW OF THE SAYINGS OF THE PROPHETS, ASKED JESUS, "WHAT MUST I DO SO THAT I MAY LIVE FOREVER?"

JESUS, IN TURN, ASKED: "WHAT IS THE LAW OF MOSES?" THE LAWYER QUOTED MOSES: "LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH AND MIND, AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

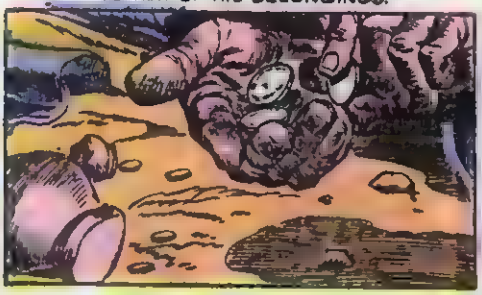
"DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE," SAID JESUS "BUT WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?" ASKED ELI AND JESUS REPLIED: "I SHALL TELL YOU..."

"THERE WAS A MAN WHO WAS TRAVELING FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO CARRYING MONEY MADE FROM HIS SALE AT THE MARKET."

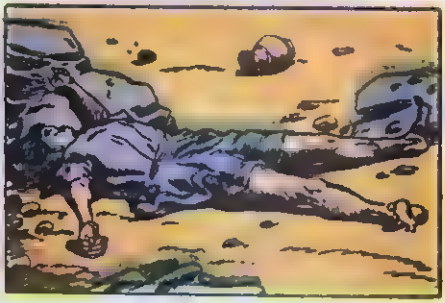
"BUT THIEVES WERE WAITING FOR HIM AT A LONELY PLACE ON THE ROAD."

"THEY SET UPON HIM AND WOUNDED HIM."

"THEN THEY STOLE HIS MONEY AND VALUABLES, STRIPPED HIM OF HIS BELONGINGS."

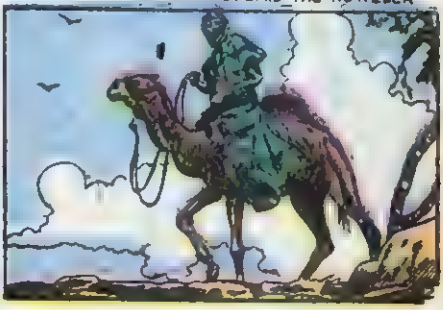


"...AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD..."

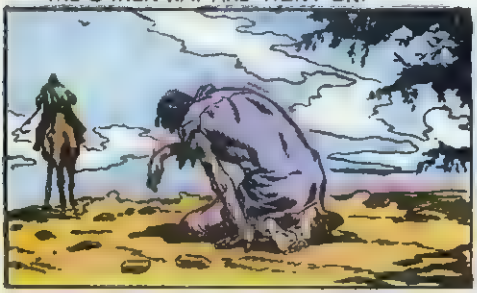


"THE WOUNDED MAN LAY FOR HOURS IN THE SUN AND WAS HELPLESS TO MOVE.."

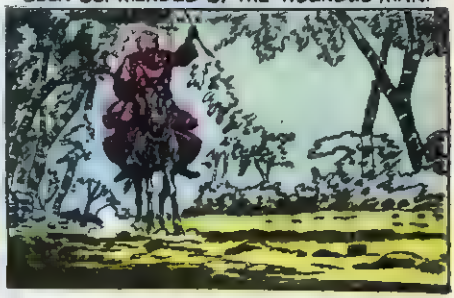
"THEN HE SAW SOMEONE COMING. IT WAS AN OLD FRIEND, A RICH MAN WHOM HE HAD HELPED START ON HIS WAY TO WEALTH 'AH, NOW I WILL BE SAVED!' SAID THE TRAVELER."



"HELP ME,' HE CRIED. BUT WHEN THE RICH MAN SAW HIM IN TROUBLE, HE TURNED HIS HEAD THE OTHER WAY AND WENT ON."



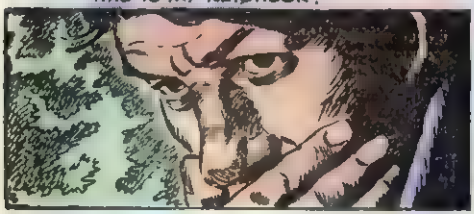
"SOON ANOTHER PASSED THAT WAY. THIS WAS ANOTHER FRIEND, A MAN OF POWER WHO HAD BEEN BEFRIENDED BY THE WOUNDED MAN."



"HELP ME,' CALLED OUT THE MAN BY THE WAYSIDE."

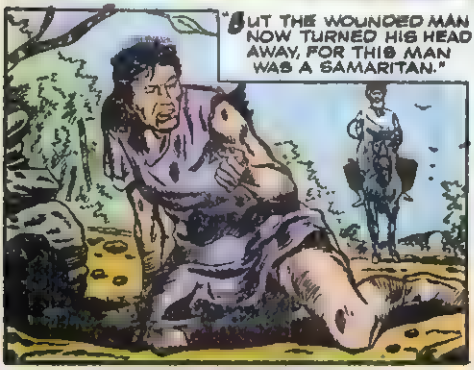
"BUT THE POWERFUL MAN ALSO TURNED HIS HEAD ASIDE AND WENT ON HIS WAY."

"ALAS!" SAID THE HELPLESS MAN. 'THESE MEN HAVE BEEN MY FRIENDS WHEN ALL WAS WELL, BUT NOW THAT THEY SEE ME IN TROUBLE, THEY HAVE NO EYES FOR ME. THEY FEAR THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO HELP ME OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKETS. THEY WERE MY NEIGHBORS AND NOW THEY ARE AS NOTHING TO ME. WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"



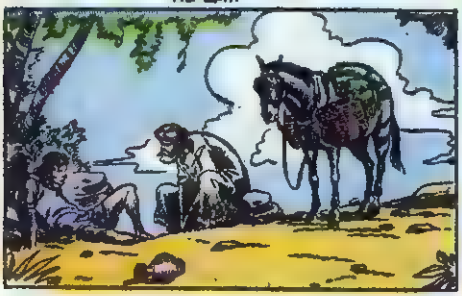
"AND STILL ANOTHER ONE PASSED THAT WAY."

"BUT THE WOUNDED MAN NOW TURNED HIS HEAD AWAY, FOR THIS MAN WAS A SAMARITAN."



"AND HE HAD ALWAYS HATED THE SAMARITANS AND DESPISED THEM AS AN INFERIOR PEOPLE. NEVER HAD HE HAD A KIND WORD FOR ONE AND HE KNEW IT WAS NO GOOD ASKING THIS ONE FOR HELP."

"But the Samaritan stopped when he saw the wounded man and came to where he lay."



"Then he bound up the wounds, bathing them with oil and wine."

"He set the man upon his own beast and took him to an inn."

"There he cared for him and fed him."

"Night and day he stayed by his side, watching over him."

"Then at last the traveler began to recover from his wounds."

"The good Samaritan took his leave of him. 'Do not fear,' he said, 'stay here until you are well again. It shall be taken care of.'"

"THEN THE GOOD SAMARITAN SAID TO THE LANDLORD OF THE INN: 'TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS MAN! I WILL PAY YOU WHATEVER IT MAY COST WHEN I RETURN THIS WAY!'"

"AND THE SAMARITAN CONTINUED ON HIS WAY."

"THE TRAVELER LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW AFTER THE GOOD SAMARITAN. NOW HE KNEW WHO WAS HIS NEIGHBOR."

"WHICH, THEN, WAS THE NEIGHBOR?" ASKED JESUS.

ELI REPLIED: "HE WHO SHOWED MERCY."

"GO... AND DO THE SAME," JESUS SAID, "FOR HE WHO SHOWS MERCY SHALL KNOW ETERNAL LIFE."

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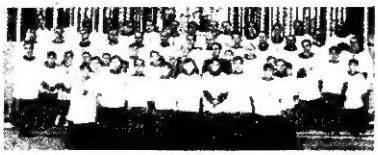

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